

OURTOWN

Spring 2014 Newsletter



"Summer Nights" in Downtown

"BURLINGTON SUMMER NIGHTS" at Railroad Park begins Friday, July 11.

There will be a Farmer's Market from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each Friday this summer (vendors have option to stay later if they like). This will be free to Vendors. Live entertainment including music is planned and details will be available in advance.



Visitor Information Center in Railroad Park
520 E. Fairhaven Avenue, Burlington WA

Fiber-Optic is now available!

FIBER is available to serve your business in Burlington! The City of Burlington is now partnering with Internet Service Providers (ISP's) to provide high speed fiber

optic communications services to Burlington businesses. Check the city of Burlington web site for details, or e-mail fiber@burlingtonwa.gov

Take a moment to review the enclosed Flood & Natural Hazard Public Information Bulletin.
BE PREPARED!



Capital Improvement Planning for OURTOWN



Burlington Public Library

“It is time for YOU to get involved and let the City know what the Public’s Capital Improvement Plan needs to include!”

Member of the Public? Live in Burlington? Work in Burlington? Have a Business in Burlington? NOW is the time to make your ideas, issues and concerns for future Capital Improvements known.

One of the most important issues for every resident and business is the Capital Improvement Plan for the community. It is time for YOU to get involved and let the City know what the Public’s Capital Improvement Plan needs to include!!!!

Where do you want to see the public investment??

This requires investing limited resources wisely for the community as a whole, including some wise investing in key community infrastructure. Parks, trails, gathering places, schools, sewer, public safety facilities, and well-functioning transportation and communication networks are a vital part of community quality. They are the features that attract residents and businesses to a community. At first glance, capital facilities (improvements) planning may not seem as alluring as visioning. Yet, there is considerable evidence that capital facilities planning can be a more powerful tool than zoning to implement a community’s grand plans.

The priorities of the city departments are driven by a number of things, including access to funding, known system deficiencies, and NOW, YOU! The following list quickly grew in just a few weeks of asking the question:

POSSIBLE IDEAS FOR PUBLIC/BUSINESS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- » All new street furniture on Fairhaven
- » Good looking Bus Shelters all over town
- » Banners and Flower Baskets on Fairhaven and Burlington Blvd (every other pole is fine on Burlington Blvd)
- » Get the signs up at entrance to Fairhaven
- » Curb height on Fairhaven
- » Pilot project for back-in angle parking
- » Complete Streets
 - ⊙ Set up 1, 3 and five mile walking/biking loops around Burlington; Plant a tree with its name on a plaque at key street corners and install benches.
 - ⊙ Finish at least the North/South Bike Lanes
 - ⊙ Interim bike access routes connecting SR 20 trail to new trail under I-5 (built late summer 2014) and to Skagit River Park via Pease Road
- » Sewer main access to all of Burlington and to known unserved areas in the Urban Growth Area – Gardner Road, N. Skagit, Anacortes, S. of Peterson Rd
- » Neighborhood Playgrounds/Parks need work
 - ⊙ Fix Children’s area at Country Aire playground
 - ⊙ Fix dirt and lawn at Boerner Memorial Park
- » Consider Dark Sky Ordinance to shield night views

• LET the City know about your:
IDEAS, CONCERNS & INTERESTS

• Plan to attend a COMMUNITY MEETING
on MAY 28 @City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

- EMAIL: bplanning@burlingtonwa.gov
- CALL: (360) 755-9717
- VISIT or SEND LETTER: 833 S. Spruce St, Burlington WA 98233

State Growth Management Act Mandatory Update—2016 Deadline

State law mandates a major update of comprehensive plans and development regulations no later than 2016 for all jurisdictions in Skagit County and Burlington is actively working to get this completed in about one year. This is a general timeline, because the Planning Department adjusts the workload and schedule based on many variables. The deadline for statewide update has been changed several times because of the economic recession, and this timeline should be a final date.

Because Burlington has fewer than 10,000 residents, the state is allocating \$9,000 in grant funds later this year, which will be used for incidental costs and to help pay planner salaries. There may be an additional \$9,000 next year, if the legislature funds it. Burlington is very fortunate because the visioning process for the future of Burlington was inspired in 2013 by the work of the UW Green Futures Lab and the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel. Burlington is rich in ideas!

Now is the time to come together and evaluate the alternatives and concepts that will work best for the long term future of Burlington. Fortunately for the city, one of the major projects is the Shoreline Master Program and this work has already been completed and adopted. Remaining tasks include:

- » Update of the overall Comprehensive Plan- many major components are up to date and their goals and policies will simply be included: sewer, parks and recreation, shorelines. Others may need work such as storm drainage, but of that list only a few have components that are required to be completed in this timeline.
- » Design and planning for the Complete Streets program to support pedestrian, bicycle and transit options, including Gages Slough nonmotorized trail route – a state law requirement since 2005, many great ideas generated by the Burlington Community Task Force as well as the UW and ULI studies.
- » Review of the Zoning map and code to consider rezoning and revisions in the regulatory framework – zoning standards need to be revisited in several locations. Should changes be made to the zoning code to allow additional height or change the development standards for building size, density.
- » Updating the Critical Areas code to comply with “best available science” – the state has fluctuated over time as a result of litigation and scientific studies, so the result likely reflects lawsuits and politics as much as science.
- » A Planned Action component, provided for by state law, will be included in the Environmental Impact Statement, to eliminate the need for individual environmental review for projects in defined locations, a great recommendation from the Urban Land Institute.

“Direction from the Community is needed on the best way to gather input as the process moves forward.”



What are the best alternatives for Burlington? A programmatic environmental impact statement is planned to evaluate the alternatives so that solid decisions can be made.

The Planning Commission has agreed to be the sounding board for the update process, including providing

general advice and conducting public meetings/hearings that may be needed. Direction from the Community is needed on the best way to gather input as the process moves forward. There are several issues/opportunities that need discussion. At a minimum, concurrence is needed on the

general scope of the project, which could easily be accomplished with a workshop. It is important for us all to be clear on what options would work the best for Burlington long term.



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Community Meeting

**PARTICIPATE IN THE
CONVERSATION
ABOUT PLANS,
PROJECTS AND IDEAS
FOR BURLINGTON'S
FUTURE!!!**

WED., MAY 28

7:00 -- 9:00 P.M.

**CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**833 S. SPRUCE STREET
BURLINGTON, WA**

*Invite your friends
& neighbors!*